

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF WATER
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501
PHONE: (907) 269-7599
FAX: (907) 269-2415
<http://www.dec.alaska.gov>

February 24, 2010

Michael Bussell, Director
Office of Water and Watersheds
US EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

Re: Anti-degradation Implementation and the Cook Inlet Oil and Gas Exploration
General Permit

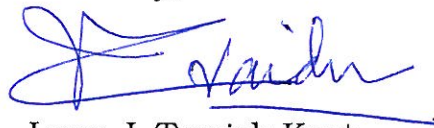
Dear Mr. Bussell:

Per our recent conversation regarding the appeal of the Cook Inlet Oil and Gas
Exploration General NPDES Permit, the Department of Environmental Conservation
(DEC) plans to do the following:

- develop interim procedures (staff guidance) for how the State implements its anti-degradation policy found at 18 AAC 70.015. We anticipate having the interim guidance available by September 1, 2010.
- participate in EPA's public notice period on the Cook Inlet Oil and Gas Exploration General Permit, or conduct a separate public notice and comment period on the State's draft Section 401 certification and draft anti-degradation analysis of the General Permit with a goal to start the minimum 30-day comment period by October 1, 2010.
- depending on the volume and nature of comments received, DEC will plan to issue a final Section 401 certification and final anti-degradation analysis by December 1, 2010.

I understand that time is of the essence and DEC will proceed with these steps as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



for Lynn J. Tomich Kent
Director